

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep disappointment that the Senate has approved permanent normal trade relations with China, which the President will soon sign.

Contrary to the cheers heard from private industry, this is not a moment of celebration for millions of hard-working American men and women. In fact, American workers in specific industries are watching their jobs disappear. We have sacrificed their livelihood on the altar of trade with China. These are working people who will soon see their jobs exported overseas. In New Jersey, we will lose 22,000 jobs over the next 10 years.

Upon enactment of PNTR, the United States is caving in to pressure from private industry and turning a blind eye to the Chinese Government's flagrant shortcomings. I did not vote for PNTR when it was considered in the House because an affirmative vote was one that would legitimize the actions of a government known for terrorizing its citizens, disallowing free speech and religion, and for breaking every trade agreement they have made with the United States.

Increased trade with China will not force the reform and democracy in their deeply flawed government. We have given them a pink slip, our workers, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep concern and disappointment that the Senate has approved Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China, which the President will soon sign into law.

Contrary to the cheers heard from private industry, this is not a moment of celebration for millions of hard working American men and women who will get the short end of the stick. PNTR is a bad deal for the United States and its people.

I am ashamed to tell the men and women in my district, the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey, that this bill passed Congress. These are working people, who will soon see their jobs exported overseas. New Jersey will lose over 22 thousand jobs over the next ten years upon enactment of this bill.

Furthermore, upon enactment of PNTR, the United States is caving in to pressure from private industry and turning a blind eye to the Chinese government's flagrant shortcomings.

I did not vote for China PNTR when it was considered in the House because an affirmative vote was one that would legitimize the actions of a government known for terrorizing its citizens, disallowing free speech and religion, and for breaking every trade agreement with the United States.

Increased trade with China will not foster reform and democracy in their deeply flawed government. Instead, it will lead America into trade deficits, as has been proven in normal trade relations agreements in the past. Most importantly, I am disappointed that the American worker was not well represented in this Congress.

Instead of ensuring that hard working American families are secure in their jobs so that

they can put food on their table, clothes on their backs, and pay their mortgage, the Congress has just handed them a pink slip.

I applaud the attempts of some of my colleagues in the Senate who tried to offer remedies to this flawed bill, but were rebuffed with each and every attempt. I was disappointed that constructive amendments—amendments dealing with labor standards, human rights, weapons technology and policy toward Taiwan—were rejected. I try to remain optimistic about the prospects for our future. But I am continually discouraged from optimism when I watch the textile industry in my district vanish before my very eyes.

How can the workers in my District be optimistic when they are looking for work in trades that will no longer be based in the United States? Right before the House took the vote on China PNTR, workers in my district held a rally against passage. The site? A textile company that had closed down because jobs have been exported overseas slowly, but surely.

Workers, businessmen, students and veterans were all in attendance at the rally, united against this trade policy that will be enacted soon after I speak here today. The opposition I stood with that day was a broad coalition of patriots. They would like us to export our values before our jobs.

This trade agreement is nothing more than corporate welfare. We are paving the way for multinational corporations to exploit low-wage workers without fear of human rights violations for working conditions.

After all, workers in China are not protected by their government. There are no unions, no freedoms, no whistle-blowing, no legal recourse for inhumane conditions, no freedom of speech . . . the list goes on and on.

I will never surrender my moral compass, and that the only thing I want to be permanent between the United States and China is a commitment to freedom. I vehemently oppose the passage of China PNTR, and will continue to fight on behalf of American laborers in the future. God bless America.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

EDUCATION FUNDING PRIORITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker I would like to take some time here this afternoon to talk about education in furtherance of the discussion we just had and the votes we have just had on the floor of the House of Representatives.

In a time when education has risen to be the number one issue in all of the polls that we see across America, everyone is trying to take credit for what is happening in education, or to blame others. In reality, I do not think there

is a man or woman on either side of this Chamber who would not want to, in some way, be able to help young people with education.

Mr. Speaker, I like to believe very strongly that we on the Republican side have worked very, very hard to further this purpose, just as we did on the last vote, trying to take the same amount of money and giving flexibility to the States and local districts to make the decision about how to use the money and not mandate just school construction or just reduced class size.

Similarly, we have been working very hard on the funding aspects of education. Indeed, as I indicated in our discussion earlier today, in the first 5 years of the last decade, with the Democrats in charge of the House of Representatives, the increase in funding for education was 6 percent per year. Basically, it was 6 percent in the 5 years the Democrats were in charge of the House, and when the Republicans took over, the increase has been 8.2 percent a year. Anyone who knows anything about mathematics and takes that 2.2 percent additional increase each year realizes how many dollars that amounts to. So there has been no shirking of the responsibility of Republicans with respect to education.

But I think just as important have been some of the issues that underlie this. We have been very determined to help children with disabilities, to help with IDEA, the individuals with disabilities education act. They need particular help because, in some cases, it is particularly expensive to help those young people be educated.

We have been concerned about quality. We have talked about quality effectiveness and results in education. We have talked about better teaching. In our classrooms today, particularly today with the technology and some of the problems in society, we need teachers who are competent and who are well trained and, in particular, who know their subject matter. We need accountability. As we are deregulating more Federal education programs and providing more flexibility, which we have been doing, we must ensure that Federal education programs produce real accountable results.

We believe in local control. Ultimately, we have to make that decision, be it Washington State or Washington, D.C. or Wilmington, Delaware or some place around the United States of America, we need to give them the flexibility to do what they have to do in order to educate. We need to get dollars to the classroom. We have been pushing very hard to make sure that the appropriations which are done here go into the classrooms to help the young people get educated.

Basic academics is important. No more fads or self-esteem approaches, perhaps new math, open classrooms, some of the things which have failed